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YARBOROUGH PROMOTES INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM SUPPORT

Senator Ralph W. Yarborough, D-Texas, opened hearings today on his International "HELP" Bill, designed to provide support for a wide variety of overseas programs in health, education labor, and other fields.

A special subcommittee set up under the Senate Labor & Public Welfare Committee and chaired by Yarborough received testimony from four witnesses on the Yarborough bill, S. 1779, the International Health, Education, Labor Program Act.

"Our vital national interest in this field is well established," said the Senator, who introduced the bill May 15, 1967. He said that over a 15-year period Central Intelligence Agency officials contributed million of dollars to private groups with international programs.

"Although this CIA funding with all its negative implications has been rightly stopped, no one can doubt our continuing national interest in seeing private involvement grow," Senator Yarborough said.

First to appear in support of the bill was Joseph A. Beirne of Washington, president of the Communications Workers of America and a leader in international free trade union activities.

Beirne said one shortcoming of existing government foreign aid programs "is that insufficient attention is paid to people--the workers, students and farmers." He said the Yarborough bill would give support to private efforts combating communist labor movements.

Other first-day witnesses were Edwin Golin of Wilmington, Del., chairman of the Inter-American Partners of the Alliance business committee; James Fowler of New York, president of the United States Youth Council, and Edward Schwartz of Washington, president of the U.S. National Student Association. The hearings continue tomorrow.

Senator Yarborough's introductory statement follows:

The first business of this Subcommittee will be S. 1779, a bill which I introduced to establish a quasi-governmental corporation to provide open support for private activities in health, education, labor and related welfare fields.

Our vital national interest in this field is well established. For 15 years, the Central Intelligence Agency, following National Security Council initiatives, contributed millions of dollars to private organizations involved in international affairs. Although this CIA funding, with all its negative implications, has rightly been stopped, no one can doubt our continuing national interest in seeing private involvement grow.

We need to create means by which the private sector can increase its involvement in international relations to the point that it will be recognized as a vital part of our foreign policy. The sum of the characteristic features that make America great--in education and science and the arts and humanities--should provide a new dimension of our foreign relations. In this new dimension we can fight with the weapons of peace, both learning and teaching at the same time.

We have appearing before this Subcommittee representatives of private groups who have demonstrated their willingness to meet the challenge of this new international effort, and I welcome their suggestions.

The proposal establishes a foundation to provide funds for private sector programs. It proposes to create these institutions openly and publicly. Other nations give public support to these programs--especially the communist bloc nations. So should we.

The fact that earlier support was given through the CIA has made the whole program suspect, but the need is still there. My bill is not a response to the hue and cry which followed the CIA scandal. It was introduced in response to a clear need--a need which sorely exists today.

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